

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 12 remain pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 9-11 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Binda for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on June 14, 2006. At the interview, above Claim 1 was discussed. Also, the patents to Walterscheid, Jennings, and Landrum were discussed. The Examiner conceded that Claim 1 appeared to overcome the Walterscheid and Landrum reference. However, the Examiner did not believe proposed Claim 1 to overcome Jennings.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification for various informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the Examiner's objection. Applicants have amended paragraph [0029] in the last amendment to overcome the Examiner's objection to the term "abutment".

Claims 2 and 8 have also been amended pursuant to the Examiner's request.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, alleging that they fail to comply with the enabling requirement.

Applicants enclose Figs. 2, 3 and 4 with the driving member highlighted in yellow and the connection plate highlighted in green. Also, a component connected to the

connection plate is highlighted in pink. Applicants believe that after reviewing these drawings, the Examiner will withdraw his §112, first paragraph rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging them to be indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 8 and now believe them to overcome the Examiner's §112, second paragraph rejection and respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walterscheid (GB 978,027). Also, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12 as being anticipated by Landrum (U.S. Patent No. 3,050,965).

Regarding above Claim 1, as was presented at the interview, the Examiner conceded that independent Claim 1 overcame his §102 rejections. Both Walterscheid and Landrum do not provide for rotationally torque free and bias free motion, among other elements. Accordingly, the Examiner conceded that these references did not anticipate or render Applicants' invention obvious to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, Applicants believe all pending claims to be patentable over these references.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by Jennings (U.S. Patent No, 4,464,137).

Claim 1, among other elements, claims that the driving member is rotationally supported around the longitudinal axis on the connection plate or on a component connected to the connection plate. The Jennings reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Jennings indicates, at column 3, line 68 through column 4, lines 1-3 that the cap screw and washer assembly are threaded into the collar portion of the output shaft which retains the yoke in its mounted position on the output shaft. Thus, the yoke is not rotationally supported on the connection plate as indicated by the Examiner. In fact, the yoke is supported on the output shaft. Thus, the Jennings reference fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Likewise, Jennings fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Landrum in view of Yabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,105).

As mentioned above, the Landrum reference fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. The combination with Yabe fails to overcome the shortcomings of Landrum. Yabe further illustrates a biasing mechanism. Thus, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to render Applicants' invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the

Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

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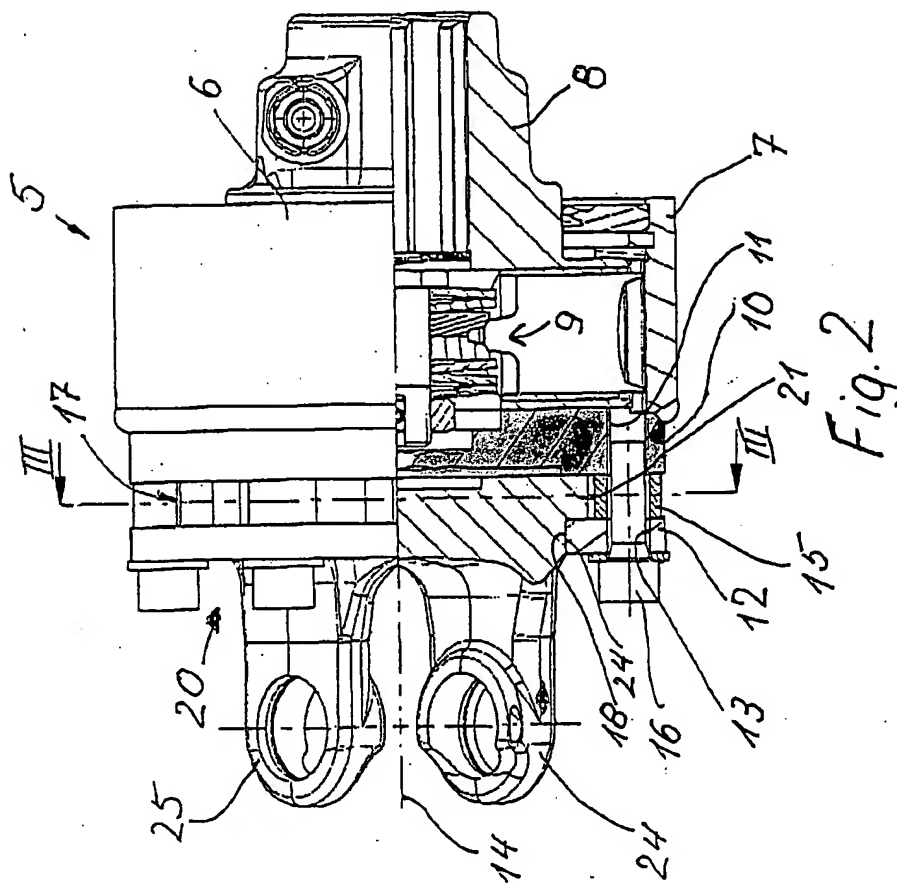


Fig. 2

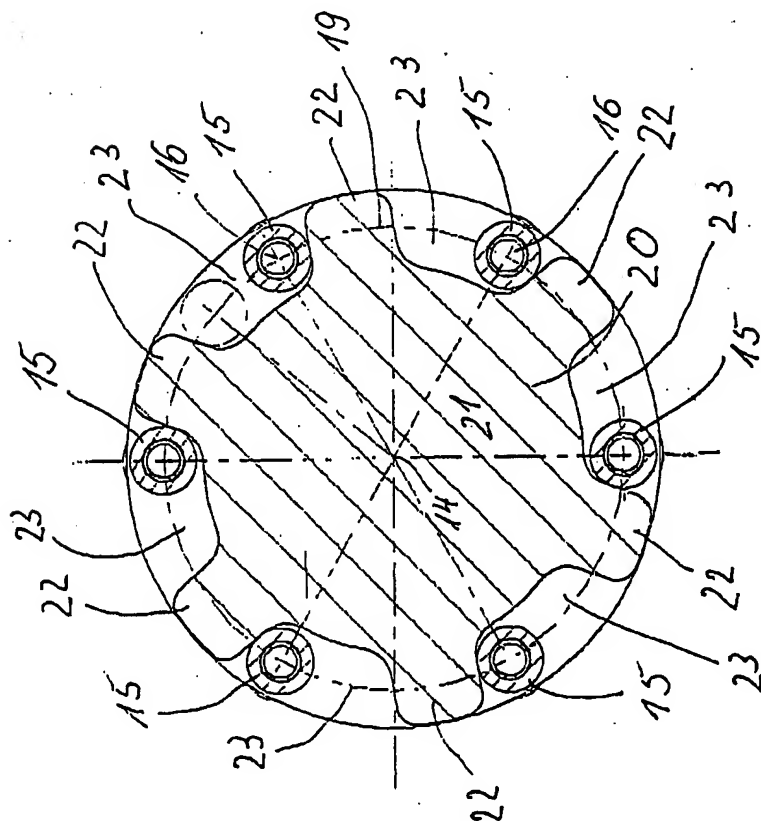
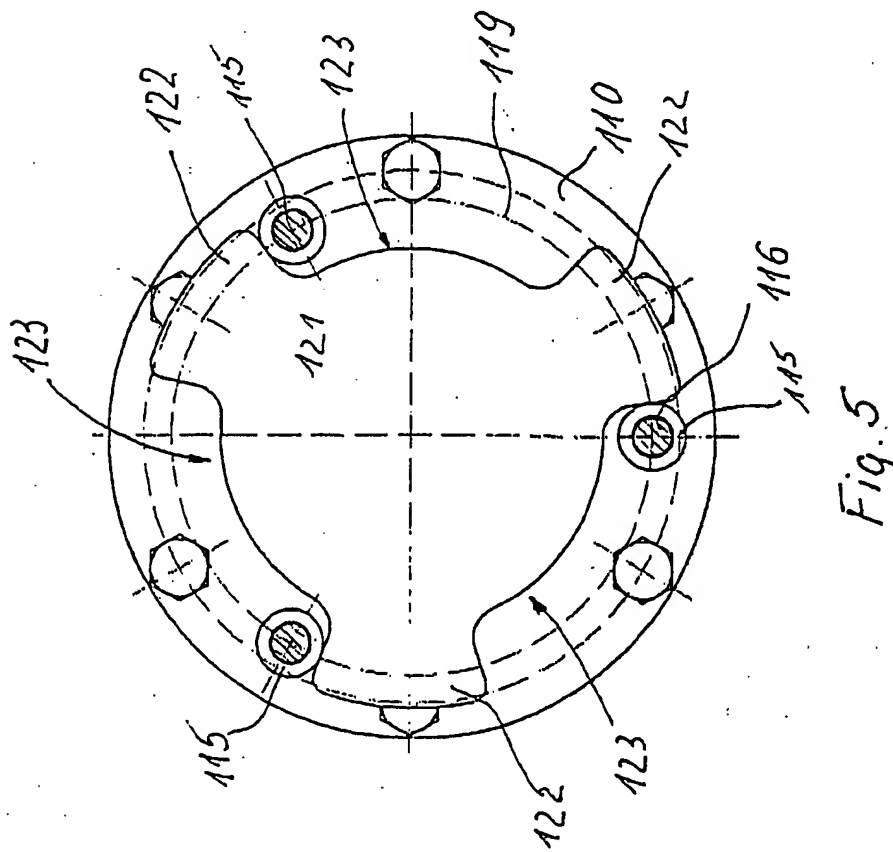
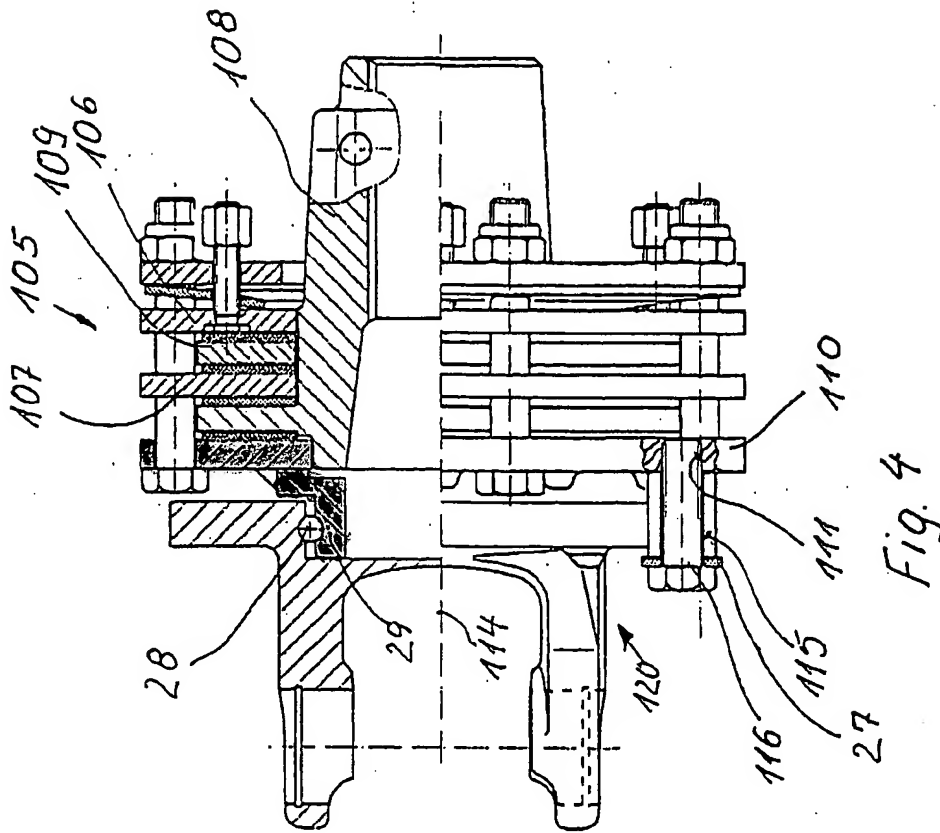


Fig. 3



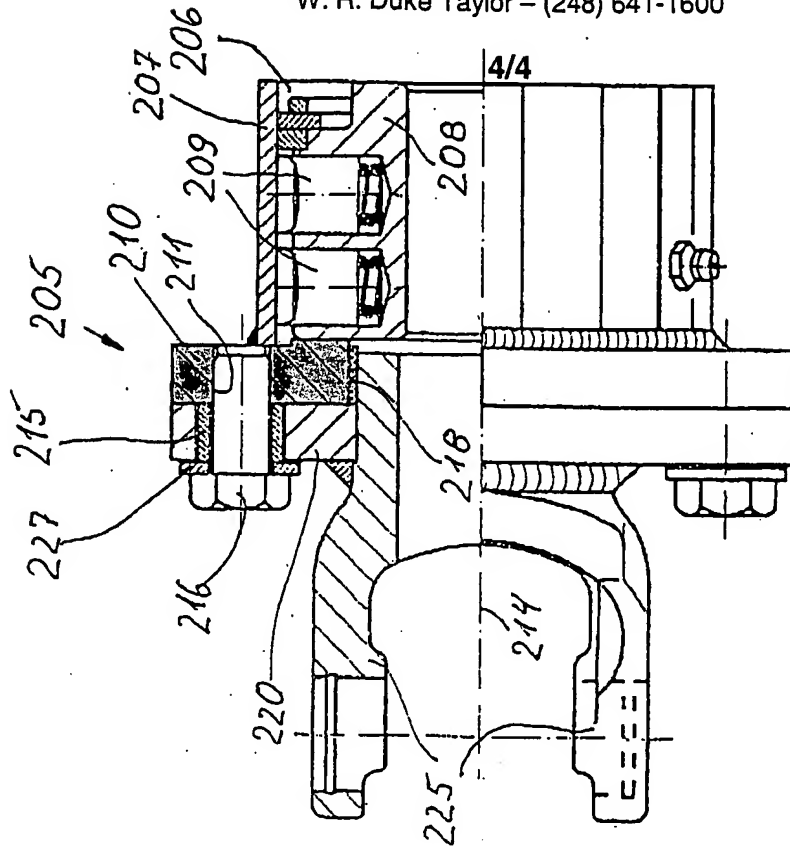


Fig. 6

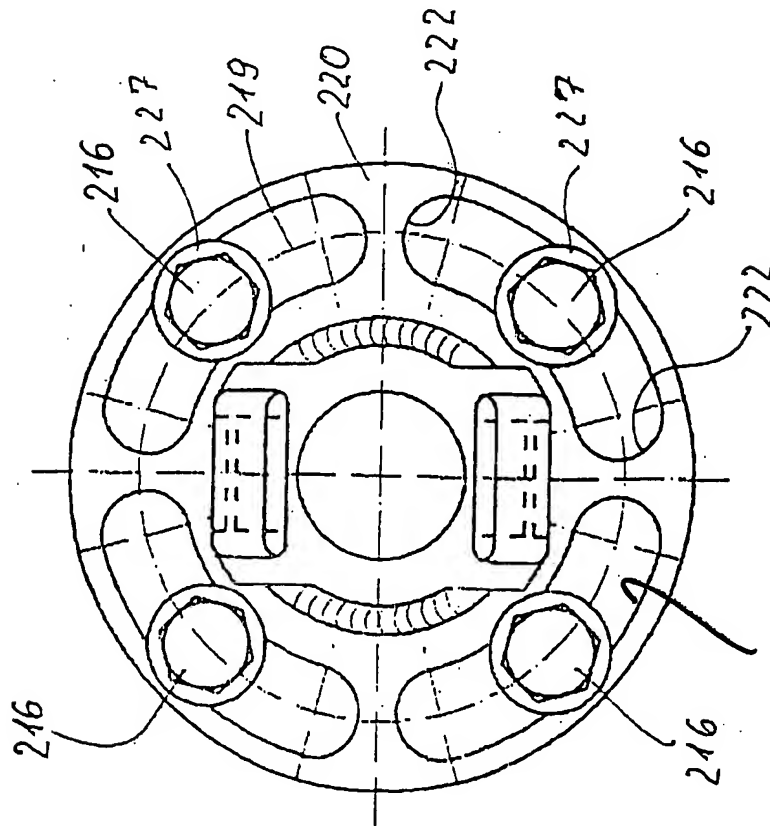


Fig. 7